

MULTIPLY BRIEFING PAPER

EDUCATION PARTICIPATION AND SKILLS



MULTIPLY

- Multiply is a new government-funded programme to help adults across the UK to brush up their numeracy skills and boost their number confidence. It will help people unlock new job opportunities or progress in work, get higher wages, improve their wellbeing and take the next step to higher levels of training. Boosting numeracy abilities can also help with everyday tasks like bills and budgeting, or helping children with homework.
- Multiply will offer adults who do not already have a GCSE grade C/4 or higher in Maths or equivalent, and need to improve their numeracy, free flexible courses that fit around their lives. Courses are expected to be available from this autumn in person or online, at work or at home, and either on a part time or intensive basis. These courses will equip adults across the UK with the numeracy skills they need to fulfil their potential.
- With up to £559 million in funding is available, Multiply has the potential to reach adults across the whole United Kingdom over the next three years, and will support the Levelling Up mission to ensure that by 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the United Kingdom.
- All local areas across the United Kingdom will be able to receive funding to deliver Multiply – up to £270 million is available across England, and up to £160 million across Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Plymouth is developing a local area investment plan for meaningful participation that boosts people's ability to use maths in their daily life, at home and work – and enable adults to achieve formal qualification that can open doors for them.
- **Plymouth has been allocated £1,317,533** and we are able to fund the solutions that meet our local needs. Funding is awarded through DfE approved local authority 'investment plans'.
- This investment is in addition to help already available for adults to improve maths and numeracy skills, including through the Adult Education Budget in England.
- In addition to providing funding to local areas to deliver innovative solutions to increase adult numeracy levels, a national digital numeracy platform will be launched. This will give people the ability to learn at their own pace, including through access to tutoring.
- A programme of evaluation to test innovative approaches to reducing adult learning barriers and improving adult numeracy (such as through randomised control trials) and build the evidence base on what works will be rolled out.
- Multiply is the first priority of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which is offering £2.6 billion in investment to help spread opportunity and level up.

The overall objective of Multiply is to increase the levels of functional numeracy in the adult population across the UK:

- More adults achieving maths qualifications courses (up to, and including, Level 2 – with GCSEs and FSQs as the qualifications of choice in England – or equivalent) and an increase in participation in numeracy courses;
 - Improved labour market outcomes;
 - Increased adult numeracy across the population.

Investment plans are expected to be developed for the full 3-year allocation. However, years 2 and 3 can be 'more tentative' to build on growing evidence from delivery:

1. Deliverability – partnership working, engagement, capability, admin support, new activity, benefits / value for money;
2. Evidence of need and demand – data on local adult numeracy levels, current provision (local skills plan and LSIP), why it matters locally;
3. Interventions – menu and avoiding displacement / duplication of existing provision
4. Strategic Fit – to Levelling Up and Skills for Jobs White Papers, local strategies, wider UKSPF;
5. Engaging and Motivating Learners – reducing negative attitudes, raising awareness, engaging with local employers / ‘touch points’, progression routes, further study courses, embedding additional maths modules into vocational courses, IAG.

Key additional issues to the prospectus:

- Payments - funding is provided to local authorities as a Section 31 ring-fenced grant and will be reduced for under-delivery / under-spend;
- Assurance and grant management - local authorities can use a ‘mix of competitions for grant funding’ including: procurement, commissioning, in-house delivery;
- Reporting framework and data collection – use of ESFA ILRs, quarterly narrative reports (using a DfE template), surveys / case studies led by DfE research team;

Fund indicators – indicative outcomes

- increased number of adults achieving maths qualifications up to, and including, Level 2;
- increased number of adults participating in maths qualifications and courses up to, and including, Level 2;
- increased number of adults participating, acquiring and evidencing skills through non-qualification provision, or towards a qualification, including online learning;
- improved labour market outcomes;
- increased adult numeracy (by supporting learners to improve their understanding and use of maths in their daily lives, at home and at work).

Fund indicators – indicative outputs

- Number of adult numeracy courses run in a local area.
- Number of people participating in Multiply funded courses, broken down by ethnicity, sex/gender, age and disability to enable Public Sector Equality Duty monitoring
- Number of people achieving a qualification, broken down by ethnicity, sex/gender, age and disability to enable Public Sector Equality Duty monitoring
- Number of courses developed in collaboration with employers.
- Number of people referred from partners onto upskill courses.
- Number of different cohorts participating in numeracy courses (e.g. learners in prison, parents etc.).

Non-learning spend - local authorities will be permitted to use up to a maximum of 10% of their Multiply funding allocation for administrative expenditure, in order to build the necessary capacity.

Proposed Plymouth Investment Plan

Plymouth has been allocated £1,317,533 until 31st March 2025. This allocation has been calculated by DfE and covers the current and next two financial years. It is a Section 31 ring-fenced grant and local authorities can retain 10% for administration. The balance is allocated to delivery from a 'menu of interventions' set out by DfE.

At this stage, it is intended to retain 50% for OCSW and 40% to be allocated by other providers. Discussions over routes to market, are underway with Strategic Co-operative Commissioning.

Indicative Cost Profile

Cost Heading	Yr 1 (22 to 23)	Yr 2 (23 to 24)	Yr 3 (24 to 25)	Total
Administration	£39,832	£45,960	£45,961	£131,753
OCSW delivery	£199,162	£229,802	£229,802	£658,766
External delivery	£159,330	£183,842	£183,842	£527,014
Total	£398,324	£459,604	£459,605	£1,317,533